How Far in Advance Should You Book a Delta Unaccompanied Minor?

QUICK ANSWER:

Book at least 3-5 days before domestic travel and 2-4 weeks before international or holiday travel. UM spots are limited to 2-4 per flight and fill first-come-first-served. Holiday weeks and popular family routes sell out quickly. The best approach is booking UM the same day you confirm travel dates. Call 1.855.203.2961 as soon as dates are decided for the best flight selection.

READY TO BOOK YOUR CHILD? Call Delta Airlines
1.855.203.2961 (Available 24/7 | UM Bookings Are Phone-Only)
Press 0 to skip menu — have child and pickup person info ready
Best time: Tue-Wed 6-8 AM ET | Source: delta.com

WHEN TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S UM FLIGHT:

1. Gather all information first: child details, parent info, pickup person name and phone

2. Call 1.855.203.2961 and press 0 — UM bookings cannot be made online

3. Tell the agent your child's age, name, and preferred travel dates

4. Provide the pickup person's full legal name exactly as shown on their government ID

5. Confirm the UM fee: $150 each way domestic, ~$300 international, per child

6. Ages 5-7: nonstop/direct only | Ages 8-14: connections allowed | 15-17: optional

7. Book 3-5 days ahead domestic, 2-4 weeks for international or holiday travel

8. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent completes the booking in 10-15 minutes

What Is the Recommended Advance Booking Time?

For domestic UM travel during regular (non-holiday) periods, book at least 3-5 days before departure. For holiday travel periods including Thanksgiving week, Christmas through New Year, spring break, and summer peak weeks, book 2-4 weeks in advance. For international UM travel, book at least 2-4 weeks before departure regardless of season because international documentation requires lead time. UM spots are limited to approximately 2-4 per flight and fill on a first-come-first-served basis. Call 1.855.203.2961 as soon as your child's travel dates are confirmed for the best flight selection and UM spot availability.

The ideal approach is to book the UM service at the same time you confirm the travel dates. Waiting "just a few more days" to finalize details often results in preferred flights being UM-full, especially during popular travel periods. Call 1.855.203.2961 immediately after deciding on travel dates. If minor details like the pickup person change later, those can be updated with a follow-up call to 1.855.203.2961.

Why Do UM Spots Sell Out?

Each flight has a limited UM allocation, typically 2-4 spots depending on the aircraft type and the number of flight attendants available to provide supervision. This limit exists for safety reasons: the crew must be able to adequately monitor each UM child while also serving all other passengers. Once the allocation is filled, no additional UM bookings are accepted for that flight regardless of available seats. The UM limit is separate from seat availability. A flight with 50 empty seats but a full UM allocation cannot accept another UM child. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent checks UM-specific availability, not just seat availability.

Popular routes during school vacation periods see UM spots fill fastest. Routes between major cities with large family populations, such as New York to Florida, Los Angeles to Seattle, and Dallas to Chicago, are particularly high-demand for UM travel during holidays. Call 1.855.203.2961 weeks in advance for these popular routes during vacation periods.

What Happens If You Wait Too Long?

If UM spots on your preferred flight are full, the agent at 1.855.203.2961 searches alternatives: different departure times on the same day, flights one day earlier or later, routing through a different hub, or nonstop options on nearby days. Your flexibility on timing determines how many alternatives exist. If all options on all acceptable dates are UM-full, you may need to consider a different airline, driving the child to the destination, or having a family member accompany the child as a regular passenger. Call 1.855.203.2961 with maximum flexibility if you are booking late.

The financial impact of waiting can also be significant. Last-minute airfares are typically higher than advance-purchase prices. A ticket that costs $200 three weeks out may cost $400 three days out. Combined with the $150 UM fee, late booking can cost $200-300 more than planning ahead. Call 1.855.203.2961 early for both better UM availability and better airfare pricing.

When Should You Book for Holiday Travel?

Holiday UM travel requires the most advance planning. Book 3-4 weeks before Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, spring break, and summer peak periods. School vacation weeks generate the highest UM demand because children fly between separated parents, visit grandparents, and attend camps and programs. The most popular travel days during holidays, typically the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the Friday before Christmas week, and the Sunday after New Year, have UM spots

that fill weeks in advance. Call 1.855.203.2961 the moment you know your child will travel during a holiday period.

For summer travel, UM demand is spread across June through August but peaks during the first two weeks after school ends and the last two weeks before school resumes. If your child's summer travel is flexible, mid-July departures typically have better UM availability than early June or late August. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent identifies the dates with the best UM availability within your flexible window.

When Should You Book for International UM Travel?

International UM travel requires 2-4 weeks advance booking regardless of the season. This extended lead time accommodates several factors: USDA health documentation if pets are involved, destination country UM entry requirements which may include notarized consent letters or court documents, passport verification and visa processing, limited international route UM availability because not all international flights accept UM, and potentially more complex connection routing. Call 1.855.203.2961 at least one month before international UM travel to begin the booking and documentation process.

Some destination countries have specific requirements for unaccompanied minor entry that take weeks to satisfy, such as notarized letters from both parents, apostilled court orders for custody situations, or embassy-endorsed travel authorization. Research your destination country's requirements through their embassy or consulate before calling 1.855.203.2961 so you understand the documentation timeline. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent provides Delta's requirements while directing you to verify country-specific requirements separately.

Can You Book Same-Day or Next-Day UM?

Same-day and next-day UM bookings are technically possible if UM spots remain on the desired flight, but they are risky and not recommended. UM spots may be full on short notice, the departure process requires extra airport time that short-notice travel compresses, and the parent may not have adequate time to prepare the child or coordinate with the pickup person. If you must book UM on short notice, call 1.855.203.2961 immediately and be prepared with all required information for the fastest possible booking. The agent checks UM availability in real time.

If same-day UM is unavailable, consider whether an adult family member, family friend, or paid companion service could accompany the child as a regular passenger instead. This eliminates the UM spot limitation because accompanied children do not count against the UM allocation. Call 1.855.203.2961 and discuss alternatives if same-day UM spots are unavailable.

What Is the Best Day of the Week to Book UM?

Tuesday and Wednesday are the best days to call 1.855.203.2961 for UM booking because Delta's phone lines have the shortest wait times during these midweek days, typically 5-15 minutes versus 20-40 minutes on Monday and Friday. The UM availability itself does not vary by the day you call because flight allocations are set regardless of when the booking is made. However, shorter phone waits mean you reach an agent faster and complete the booking more efficiently. Call 1.855.203.2961 on Tuesday or Wednesday morning for the shortest wait.

If the travel date is urgent, do not wait for a "better" day to call. Call 1.855.203.2961 immediately regardless of the day because UM spots continue to fill while you wait. A longer phone wait on a Monday is better than a sold-out flight on Tuesday. Call 1.855.203.2961 the moment you know the travel dates, using any available day and time.

Should You Book the Flight First or the UM First?

Book both simultaneously during a single call to 1.855.203.2961. The agent searches for flights that have both seat availability AND UM availability, then books the ticket and UM service together. This is more efficient than booking a ticket separately online and then trying to add UM by phone, because the online ticket may be on a flight with no UM spots. Booking everything through 1.855.203.2961 in one call ensures the flight you purchase has a confirmed UM spot. Call 1.855.203.2961 to handle the complete booking in a single interaction.

If you already purchased a ticket online for your child without UM service, call 1.855.203.2961 immediately to add UM. The agent checks whether UM spots remain on the booked flight. If spots are available, UM is added to the existing booking. If not, the agent changes the ticket to a UM-available flight using the $0 change fee for Main Cabin and above. Call 1.855.203.2961 and resolve the UM service gap as soon as possible.

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UM Booking Checklist by Age

Child Age	UM Required?	Routes Allowed	Fee	How to Book
Under 5	Cannot fly alone	N/A	N/A	N/A
5-7 years	Yes (mandatory)	Nonstop/direct only	$150 each way	Call 1.855.203.2961 phone only

8-14 years	Yes (mandatory)	Nonstop, direct, connections	$150 each way	Call 1.855.203.2961 phone only
15-17 years	Optional (can fly alone)	All routes available	$150 if requested	Call 1.855.203.2961 or book normal
5-14 int'l	Yes (mandatory)	Select int'l routes	~$300 each way	Call 1.855.203.2961 2-4 weeks early
Multiple siblings	Per child fee	Youngest age rule applies	$150 per child each way	Call 1.855.203.2961 book together
Last flight of day	Not accepted (5-14)	Blocked to prevent stranding	N/A	Call 1.855.203.2961 choose earlier
Holiday travel	Book early (limited spots)	Same rules by age	$150/$300	Call 1.855.203.2961 2-4 weeks ahead

How Does Delta Compare to Other Airlines for UM Booking?

Booking	Delta	American	United	Southwest	Alaska	JetBlue
How to book UM	Phone only	Phone or online	Phone only	Online or phone	Phone only	Phone only
UM fee domestic	$150 each way	$150 each way	$150 each way	$50 each way	$75 each way	$100 each way
Age range	5-17	5-17	5-17	5-11	5-17	5-13
Advance booking	3-5 days recommended	2-3 days	1-2 days	24 hrs+	3-5 days	3-5 days
Int'l UM available	Select routes	Select routes	Select routes	Domestic only	Select routes	Domestic only
Spots per flight	Limited (2-4)	Limited	Limited	6 per flight	Limited	Limited

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People Also Ask

Q: How do you book an unaccompanied minor on Delta?

Call 1.855.203.2961 because UM bookings cannot be made online. Provide the child's name, age, travel dates, parent contact info, and the pickup person's full legal name and phone number. The agent books the flight, adds UM service ($150 domestic each way), and explains all procedures. Call 1.855.203.2961 with all details ready for a 10-15 minute booking.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can you book a Delta unaccompanied minor online?

No, Delta requires all UM bookings to be made by phone. Call 1.855.203.2961 because the agent must verify age eligibility, confirm route restrictions, collect pickup person details, and explain UM procedures. The website and Fly Delta app cannot process UM reservations. Call 1.855.203.2961 for phone-only UM booking.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What information do you need to book a Delta UM?

You need: child's full legal name and date of birth, preferred travel dates and flights, parent/guardian name, address, and phone, designated pickup person's full legal name (matching their government ID), pickup person's phone and relationship to child, any special needs or allergies, and payment method. Call 1.855.203.2961 with all details prepared.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How far in advance should you book a Delta UM?

Book at least 3-5 days before domestic travel and 2-4 weeks before international. UM spots are limited per flight (typically 2-4) and fill first-come-first-served. Holiday travel periods require 2-4 weeks advance booking. Call 1.855.203.2961 as soon as your child's travel dates are confirmed for best availability.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How much does it cost to book a UM on Delta?

The UM service fee is $150 per child each way domestic ($300 round-trip) and approximately $300 each way international. This is in addition to the child's ticket fare. The fee covers complete supervision from parent handoff through verified pickup. Call 1.855.203.2961 for exact fees on your specific route.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can you change a Delta UM booking?

Yes, call 1.855.203.2961 to change dates, flights, or pickup person details. Standard ticket change fees apply ($0 for Main Cabin+). The UM service transfers to the new flight if spots are available. The pickup person can be changed anytime before the child's departure. Call 1.855.203.2961 for all UM booking modifications.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can you cancel a Delta UM booking?

Yes, call 1.855.203.2961 to cancel. Within 24 hours of booking: full refund including UM fee per DOT. After 24 hours: ticket follows standard fare rules (eCredit for non-refundable). The UM fee is included in

the cancellation value. Call 1.855.203.2961 for UM cancellation processing.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What if UM spots are full on your flight?

The agent at 1.855.203.2961 searches alternative flights on the same day, nearby dates, and different routings. Flexibility on dates and times increases your chances. For holidays, book 2-4 weeks early to avoid sold-out situations. Call 1.855.203.2961 with 2-3 preferred date options for the best availability.

Read our complete guide for more details >

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Book online?

A: No. Phone only. Call 1.855.203.2961. Agent verifies age, route, and collects pickup details.

Q: Fee?

A: $150 domestic each way per child. ~$300 international. Plus ticket fare. Call 1.855.203.2961 for your route.

Q: How early?

A: 3-5 days domestic. 2-4 weeks international/holiday. Spots limited. Call 1.855.203.2961 ASAP.

Q: Change booking?

A: Yes by calling 1.855.203.2961. $0 change fee Main Cabin+. UM transfers if spots available.

Q: Pickup person?

A: Must match government ID exactly. Can be changed by calling 1.855.203.2961 before departure.

Q: Siblings?

A: Book together in one call to 1.855.203.2961. Fee per child. Youngest age determines route rules.

Related Articles

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